Claims

1. Method for decoding a data stream, the data stream
   containing a first and a second substream, the first
5   substream (14) containing multimedia data packets and the
   second substream containing control information (10),
   wherein the multimedia data packets contain an indication
   of the time when to be presented, and wherein the
   multimedia data packets are decoded prior to the
10   indicated presentation time, **characterized in** that
   - first decoded multimedia data packets are buffered at
     least until, after a further processing, they can be
     presented in due time; and
   - other multimedia data packets may be buffered, wherein
15   the other multimedia data packets may replace or be
     appended to the first decoded multimedia data packets.

2. Method according to claim 1, wherein the control
   information defines whether the other multimedia data
20   packets are appended to the first data packets or replace
   them.

3. Method according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the control
   information contains first, second and third control
25   data,
   - the first control data (Length) defining the allocated
   buffer size,
   - the second control data (LoadMode) defining whether the
   other multimedia data packets are appended to the first
30   packets or replace them, and
   - the third control data (StartLoadTime, StopLoadTime)
   defining a multimedia data packet to be buffered.

4. Method according to any of claims 1-3, wherein labels are attached to the buffered first and other multimedia data packets, and the packets may be accessed through their respective label.

5. Method according to any of claims 1-4, wherein the labels attached to the buffered data packets contain an index relative to the latest received data packet.

6. Method according to any of claim 1-5, wherein the first substream contains audio data and the second substream contains a description of the presentation.

7. Method according to any of claims 1-6, wherein the data stream is compliant with the MPEG-4 standard.

8. Apparatus comprising means for decoding a data stream, the data stream containing a first and a second substream, the first substream (14) containing multimedia data packets and the second substream containing control information (10), wherein the multimedia data packets contain an indication of the time when to be presented, **characterized in** that
   - first decoded multimedia data packets are buffered in a buffering means; and
   - other multimedia data packets are buffered in the same buffering means, wherein the other multimedia data packets may replace or be appended to the first decoded multimedia data packets, depending on the control information (10).

9. Apparatus according to claim 8, further comprising means for attaching labels to the buffered first and other

multimedia data packets, and means for accessing, retrieving or deleting the packets through their respective label.

5   10. Apparatus according to claim 8 or 9, wherein the data stream is an MPEG-4 compliant data stream.